

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06401 231745Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 TRSE-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 NEA-14 EA-11 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01

/157 W

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R 221736Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0583

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06401

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH THREE)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: US,RH,PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: TREASURY REVOCATION OF LICENSE OF AIR

RHODESIA: PROFESSOR HUTCHINSON'S COMMENTS ON

RHODESIAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 104009, BLANTYRE 654

1. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER RAISED SUBJECT OF TREASURY
REVOCATION OF AIR RHODESIA LICENSE (STATE REFTTEL) AT
FCO, HEAD OF RHODESIA DEPARTMENT SAID BRITISH GOVERNMENT
DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT AND HAD HAD NO
INQUIRIES FROM PRESS HERE. MATTER REPORTED IN LOCAL
PRESS WITH THE TIMES TAKING UNWARRANTED CREDIT FOR US
ACTION ON GROUNDS THEY HAD REPORTED IN DETAIL ON IL-
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PAGE 02 LONDON 06401 231745Z

LEGAL ACTIVITIES OF AIR RHODESIA OFFICE. FCO OFFICIAL

SAID THAT IF PRESS HAD ASKED, BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO ANSWER THAT THEY WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT THE CLOSING OF THE OFFICE WAS A GOOD THING. AT THE SAME TIME HE ASKED WHAT THE EFFECT OF THE REVOCATION WOULD BE AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER THE AIR RHODESIA OFFICE HAD BEEN CLOSED ALREADY OR WOULD SOON BE CLOSED. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT FOR RELAY TO FCO.

2. THE TIMES FOR MAY 22 CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR JOHN HUTCHINSON ON THE OBSTACLES TO TRUST BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS. HUTCHINSON MAINTAINED HIS LINE THAT BOTH ANC AND IAN SMITH GOVERNMENT HAVE SPOKEN OPTIMISTICALLY ABOUT THEIR TALKS ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE WRONG TO PREDICT AN AGREEMENT BUT WELL TO PREPARE FOR IT. THE MAIN PROBLEM ACCORDING TO HUTCHINSON IS THAT SMITH AND BISHOP MUZOREWA DO NOT YET TRUST EACH OTHER AND NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE REACTION OF THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL BE IF THEY COME TO AN AGREEMENT. HE THEN CALLS FOR BRITISH RATIFICATION OF ANY AGREEMENT AND CALLS ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OT "MAKE IT PLAIN" THAT AMERICAN ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE WELCOME IN BRITAIN. SUCH ASSURANCES, HUTCHINSON SAID, ARE NEEDED IN CONGRESS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND CLAIMED THAT SMITH AND MUZOREWA HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE VERY WELCOME IN RHODESIA. HUTCHINSON ALSO CALLED ON THE US TO INDICATE THAT IN SUPPORT OF THE UK, IT WOULD ARGUE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE OAU AND THE UN.

3. THE HEAD OF RHODESIA DEPARTMENT COMMENTED THAT HUTCHINSON OBVIOUSLY HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SMITH AND MUZOREWA BUT THAT THE FCO HAD BEEN DISCREETLY MENTIONING TO VISITORS FROM RHODESIA THAT HUTCHINSON DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND IS ACTING PURELY P X ON HIS OWN BEHALF. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY US ASSESSMENT OF HUTCHINSON'S RELIABILITY AND INFLUENCE IN THE USG.

4. AS A GENERAL ASSESSMENT FCO OFFICIAL SAID PROSPECTS
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PAGE 03 LONDON 06401 231745Z

FOR SMITH ARE INCREASINGLY GLOOMY. ON THE MILITARY FRONT THE SMITH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THE INSURGENCY TO SOME EXTENT BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ELIMINATE THE INSURGENTS. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT THE SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS POSING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHILE THE LOSS OF DRAFT-AGE MALES WHO ARE FLEEING COUNTRY HAS BEEN A SEVERE BLOW BOTH TO THE MILITARY FORCES AND TO THE

MORALE OF GOVERNMENT

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